

Baseball hits home run in Berkshire

Case Study



demand has been noted. Evaluations which are currently being undertaken in the youth clubs will also provide evidence why females are not participating.

Signposting

Young people are signposted to Bracknell Baseball Club by the coaches who attend the sessions. The last session is also held at the club ground so that young people can experience playing there and compete against other youth groups. Bracknell Baseball Club is accessible within many areas of Berkshire due to its proximity to both Bracknell and Wokingham local authority areas.

Sustainability

Sport Unlimited funding will help to

Berkshire Sport has begun delivering Baseball sessions with support from Bracknell Baseball Club as a part of its Sport Unlimited programme.

The program

Sessions were held in local youth clubs and were mainly attended by semi sporty males aged between 13 and 16. During the indoor sessions young people learned how to play the game, try out fun skills and play mini games. Baseball proved to be easy to set up and young people could take part on a casual basis in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. The baseball club supplied all the equipment, but an equipment bag has also been purchased for each of the youth groups to use permanently on site.

Consulting with young people

The Youth boards had indicated that baseball was an activity that they wished to experience in their youth club time. Youth leaders who

liaised with representatives from their clubs found that young people perceived Baseball as a, 'new cool American sport'.

Experiencing Baseball

They also discovered that young people knew about Bracknell Baseball Club as many had experienced a short baseball course at their schools. Many wanted to experience the sport in a more relaxed setting and youth clubs were therefore seen as an ideal option. The youth clubs also have outdoor facilities which can be utilised during the summer as the autumn term sessions have all been organised indoors.

Broadening the appeal

Baseball has proved to be a popular activity during the autumn term with male participants but not as popular with females. Berkshire Sport will aim to attract more females when the sport is delivered in schools during term two as a



train several youth leaders as Level One coaches in the future. This will allow the club to sustain the groups regularly in the youth group setting. The baseball club is keen to keep strong links with current groups involved and anticipates several leaders becoming involved with the club. Berkshire Sport are also aiming to set up a satellite site for the club in the Wokingham area.

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